



**USAID | PHILIPPINES**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## **PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Office of Program Resources Management**

**(632) 552-9907**

***Wednesday, March 25, 2008***

**“USAID/Philippines does not vouch for the accuracy or the opinions of the articles provided in this press clipping service and assumes no responsibility for their content. Please contact USAID/Philippines at [infoph@usaid.gov](mailto:infoph@usaid.gov) if you have any questions about USAID programs and projects.”**

### **INVESTING IN PEOPLE**

**(Health)**

#### **Zambo gov to sway foreign sponsor for 5-year health investment plan**

**(Source: Philippine Information Agency Daily News Reader Online – 3/25/08)**

Zamboanga City (March 25) -- Serving her third and last term as governor of Zamboanga del Sur, Auring E. Cerilles is determined to improve the health services here through the 5-year Province-wide Investment Plan for Health (PIPH) upon winning foreign donors to finance its implementation.

Governor Cerilles is slated to be in Manila on April 7 to defend and convince the members of a Joint Appraisal Committee (JAC) composed of foreign funding institutions capable of funding a hefty P7-Billion health investment for Zamboanga del Sur.

Dr. Eduardo Gonzaga, Assistant Regional Director of DOH's Center for Health and Development expressed confidence that Governor Cerilles will have no trouble convincing the appraisal team which composed of Foreign supporters and donors since the PIPH of Zamboanga del Sur is well-planned.

Of the three provinces in Region 9, namely; Zambo Sur, Zambo Norte and Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Sur's PIPH was completed on time and has passed the scrutiny of the technical team. Dr. Gonzaga said it gave Governor Cerilles the 'green light' to present it to the JAC ahead of the other provinces.

The 5-year health investment plan of Zamboanga del Sur will run through 2008 until 2012, and requires a huge funding of P7-Billion.

Donor institutions that would likely fund the required investments for health and related sectors include the European Commission (EC), United States Agency for

International Development (USAID), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Canadian International Development Fund (CIDA), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Asean Development Bank (ADB), World Bank (WB), among others.

Dr. Corazon Silla-Ariosa, Provincial Health Officer, who led the team formulating the PIPH, discussed how accurately they obtained data and facts which describe the present health situation of the province.

She said investment in terms of programs, projects and activities were factored in for the execution of strategies and interventions on service delivery, health regulation, financing and governance.

Ariosa attributed the prompt completion of the PIPH to the established inter-local health zones (ILHZ); the technical assistance of the municipal planning officers and through the Provincial Planning and Development Office headed Loy Cañales.

Under the Cerilles Administration, the 26 towns and Pagadian City are divided into 3 inter-local health zones (ILHZ), namely: JSMART, Dumanquillas and Yllana Bay.

Based on the number of towns, the Yllana ILHZ has the highest investment requirement of P2.4 billion, or 34.1 percent of the 7 billion, followed by the Dumanquillas ILHZ with P2.1 billion or 30.1 percent, and the J-SMART ILHZ with P1.5 billion or 21.3 percent. Provincial investments which include interventions that cut across local health zones also got a share of P1.0 billion, representing 14.5 percent of total.

To ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the PIPH, a Management Committee shall be organized to oversee the execution of all the programs, projects and activities contained therein and the proper management and utilization of funds.

This health initiative of Zamboanga del Sur dove-tails the government's fight to improve the living condition of the country's poor.

At the national front, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo together with the First Gentleman and Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap brought cheers to poor farming families of Nueva Viscaya on Easter.

Stressing that the Philippines would not become a modern nation if the lives of the poor is not uplifted and poverty eradicated, President Arroyo brought to Dupax, Del Norte the fruits of an improved economy---enhanced social justice and services.

Barangay Malasin, where the President and her party had the first stop, received "Easter packs" of scholarship vouchers, livelihood kits, and agricultural support.